



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

Issue: 08-13 Released: July 16, 2008

## HIGHLIGHTS

Wheat Production Forecast  
Barley Production Forecast  
Oats Production Forecast  
Potato Production Forecast  
Dry Pea Production Forecast  
Lentils Production Forecast  
Austrian Winter Peas Production Forecast  
2007 Sweet Cherry Production  
Ag Prices Received  
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates

## July 1, 2008 Crop Production

Based on July 1 conditions, Montana's all wheat production is expected to be 159.7 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.5 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. Winter wheat yield is forecast to be 37.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year. Production is forecast to be 90.7 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Nine percent of the winter wheat has turned color for the week ending July 6 compared with 60 percent last year and 53 percent for the five-year average.

The first spring wheat production forecast is 56.4 million bushels, up 2 percent from last year's production due to higher harvested acreage. The expected yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last year. The harvested acres are expected to be 2.45 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. For the week ending July 6, the spring wheat crop was 36 percent headed compared with 53 percent last year and 51 percent for the five-year average. Durum wheat production is forecast to be 12.7 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. The expected yield of 21.0 bushels per acre is down 3 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage is expected to be 605,000 acres, up 27 percent from 2007.

Barley yields are expected to average 43.0 bushels per acre in 2008, 1 bushel below last year. Barley production is forecast to be 33.5 million bushels compared with 31.7 million bushels last year. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2007. Barley crop progress is behind last year, with 86

percent reaching boot stage and 47 percent headed. Oat producers expect to harvest 1.9 million bushels of grain, 2 percent more than last year. The 2008 harvested acreage is expected to be 35,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. The expected yield of 53.0 bushels per acre is 1 bushel above last year's yield.

Dry edible pea producers in Montana planted 232,000 acres, down 1 percent from a year ago. Producers are expecting to harvest 214,000 acres. Austrian winter pea producers planted 19,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year. Producers expect to harvest 4,000 acres of this year's crop as peas. Lentil growers planted 84,000 acres this year, down 3 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 82,000 acres of lentils. Montana potato producers planted 10,900 acres in 2008, down 4 percent from last year. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 10, 2008.

The U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 1.04 billion bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 607 million bushels, is up 6 percent from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 218 million bushels. Of this total, 23.3 million bushels are Hard White and 194 million bushels are Soft White.

Nationally, other spring wheat production is forecast at 507 million bushels, 6 percent above 2007. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.8 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 6 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushel from 2007. Of the total production, 471 million bushels are Hard

Red Spring wheat, up 5 percent from last year. Durum wheat production is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, up 25 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.8 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushel above last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.58 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 22 percent from last year.

U.S. barley production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, down less than 1 bushel from last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain or seed, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007. Oat production is forecast at 92.9 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. If realized, this will be the second lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the yield is forecast at 64.4 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from 2007. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres for grain or seed, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record.

Planted area of dry edible peas in the United States is estimated at 847,000 acres, down less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 807,800 acres, is also down less than 1 percent from a year ago. Planted area of Austrian winter peas is estimated at 26,500 acres, down 9 percent from 2007. Area harvested is forecast at 8,800 acres, down 20 percent from a year ago. Lentils planted area is estimated at 279,000 acres, up less than 1 percent from the March planting intentions but 8 percent below 2007. Harvested area is estimated at 272,000 acres, down 8 percent from last year.

Fall potatoes area planted for 2008 is estimated at 929,100 acres, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 916,200 acres, also down 8 percent from 2007 and 7 percent below 2006.

**July 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.**

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/
		(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Units	(000) Units
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,450.0	38.0	37.0	83,220	90,650
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	610.0	475.0	605.0	24.0	21.0	11,400	12,705
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,500.0	2,400.0	2,450.0	23.0	23.0	55,200	56,350
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,710.0	5,065.0	5,505.0	29.6	29.0	149,820	159,705
Barley	Bu	900.0	910.0	720.0	780.0	44.0	43.0	31,680	33,540
Oats	Bu	75.0	65.0	35.0	35.0	52.0	53.0	1,820	1,855
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	84.0	65.0	38.0	22.0	145.0	7/	5,510	7/
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	31.2	24.7	3/	1,161	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.8	330.0	6/	3,696	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt	18.3	16.0	16.6	14.5	16.7	4/	278	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt	235.0	232.0	217.0	214.0	17.0	6/	3,689	6/
Lentils	Cwt	87.0	84.0	85.0	82.0	9.9	6/	842	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	20.0	19.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	6/	26	6/
Canola	Lbs	8.0	10.0	7.7	9.5	1,310.0	5/	10,087	5/
Flaxseed	Bu	21.0	10.0	20.0	9.0	9.0	7/	180	7/
Safflower	Lbs	38.0	32.0	36.5	30.5	830.0	7/	30,295	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650.0	1,650.0	2.3	3/	3,795	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900.0	1,000.0	1.5	3/	1,350	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,550.0	2,650.0	2.0	3/	5,145	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Acres	(000) Units	(000) Units
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,605.0	35,952.0	40,252.0	42.2	46.3	1,515,989	1,864,245
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,655.0	2,112.0	2,583.0	33.9	34.8	71,686	89,873
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,197.0	12,947.0	13,751.0	37.0	36.8	479,047	506,568
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,457.0	51,011.0	56,586.0	40.5	43.5	2,066,722	2,460,686
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,130.0	3,508.0	3,640.0	60.4	59.8	211,825	217,819
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,467.0	1,505.0	1,443.0	60.9	64.4	91,599	92,872
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	93,600.0	87,327.0	86,542.0	78,940.0	151.1	3/	13,073,893	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,268.8	1,080.1	1,246.8	1,027.3	25.6	3/	31,912	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,010.6	929.1	996.7	916.2	410.0	6/	409,082	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,526.9	1,398.0	1,478.7	1,339.2	17.2	4/	25,371	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt	847.5	847.0	811.3	807.8	19.6	6/	15,903	6/
Lentils	Cwt	303.0	279.0	295.0	272.0	11.6	6/	3,408	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt	29.0	26.5	11.0	8.8	11.6	6/	127	6/
Canola	Lbs	1,183.0	1,008.0	1,163.0	979.0	1,250.0	5/	1,453,830	5/
Flaxseed	Bu	354.0	340.0	349.0	333.0	16.9	7/	5,904	7/
Safflower	Lbs	180.0	191.0	172.0	183.0	1,215.0	7/	208,995	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,670.0	20,778.0	3.35	3/	72,575	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,955.0	39,661.0	1.95	3/	77,729	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,625.0	60,439.0	2.44	3/	150,304	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available August 12, 2008. 4/ Forecast available September 12, 2008. 5/ Forecast available October 10, 2008. 6/ Forecast available November 10, 2008. 7/ Forecast available January 12, 2009 -- Not published.

**2007 Sweet Cherry Production, Utilization and Value**

Montana sweet cherry producers harvested a total of 2,440 tons in 2007, 2 percent above the 2006 production of 2,400 tons, and almost double the 1,230 tons produced in 2005. Utilization of the 2007 crop totaled 2,180 tons, compared with 580 tons utilized in 2006 and 1,180 tons utilized in 2005. The value of production for 2007 was \$3.6 million, compared with \$1.1 million in 2006 and \$4.2 million in 2005. The average price per ton received for sweet cherries during 2007 was \$1,630, compared with \$1,850 in 2006 and \$3,530 per ton in 2005. In 2007, there were 720 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.39 tons per acre, compared with 750 bearing

acres with an average yield of 3.20 tons per acre in 2006, and 740 bearing acres with an average yield of 1.66 tons per acre in 2005. There were 140 tons of unharvested production and 120 tons that were harvested but not sold in 2007, compared with 1,700 tons of unharvested production and 120 tons that were harvested but not sold in 2006.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 310,680 tons in 2007, 6 percent above the 2006 total of 294,160 tons, and 24 percent higher than the 2005 crop of 250,830 tons. Producers utilized 306,210 tons in 2007, 7 percent above the 287,520 tons utilized in 2006, and 26 percent higher than the 2005 utilized total of 243,570 tons. Value of production for the 2007 crop totaled

\$557.1 million, 20 percent above the 2006 total of \$465.3 million, and 15 percent higher than the \$484.3 million in 2005. The price per ton was \$1,820 in 2007, compared with \$1,620 in 2006 and \$1,990 in 2005. In 2007, there were 83,570 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.72 tons per acre, compared with 81,600 bearing acres and an average yield per acre of 3.60 tons in 2006, and 78,790 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.18 tons per acre in 2005. There were 1,150 tons of unharvested production in 2007, with 3,870 tons unharvested in 2006, and 2,080 tons unharvested in 2005. In addition, there were 3,320 tons harvested but not sold in 2007, 2,770 tons harvested but not sold in 2006, and 5,180 tons harvested but not sold in 2005.

## May Ag Prices Received

May 2008 full month crop prices were mostly higher when compared with April 2008. When compared with April 2008, Montana's winter wheat price was \$9.12 per bushel, up \$0.63, spring wheat was up \$1.61 to \$11.30 per bushel, durum wheat decreased \$4.60 to \$11.20 per bushel, feed barley was down \$0.48 to \$4.07 per bushel, malt barley was \$6.05 per bushel, up \$1.33, and oats were \$3.44 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay decreased \$15.00 to \$84.00 per ton and all other hay decreased \$3.00 to \$99.00 per ton. Mid-June grain prices were lower when compared with May. The winter wheat price was \$8.70 per bushel, spring wheat was \$9.31 per bushel, durum wheat was \$9.12 per bushel, and feed barley was \$3.73 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mixed when compared with the

previous month. Steers and heifers were down \$0.70 to \$98.80 per cwt, but cows increased \$3.40 to \$54.30 per cwt. The price for calves rose \$3.00 to \$116.00 per cwt. Sheep were down \$4.70 to \$19.80 per cwt, but lambs increased \$3.00 to \$104.00 per cwt. Milk increased \$0.40 per cwt to \$18.60 per cwt. Mid-month June steers and heifers were \$95.80 per cwt, cows were \$52.50 per cwt, beef cattle were \$75.90 per cwt, calves were \$115.00 per cwt, and all milk was \$17.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was \$8.17 per bushel, down \$1.44, spring wheat was \$10.70 per bushel, up \$0.20, durum wheat was \$13.50 per bushel, down \$0.30, all barley was \$4.52 per bushel, down \$0.02, oats were \$3.63 per bushel, up \$0.15, steers and heifers were \$95.90 per cwt, up \$4.30, cows were \$53.90 per cwt, up \$3.40, beef cattle were \$91.10 per cwt, up \$4.50, calves were up \$3.00 to \$119.00 per cwt, sheep were

\$27.70 per cwt, down \$1.10, lambs were \$100.00 per cwt, up \$0.60 and all milk was \$18.40 per cwt, up \$0.40.

The U.S. mid-June price for winter wheat was \$8.00 per bushel, spring wheat was \$10.10 per bushel, durum wheat was \$12.10 per bushel, all wheat was \$8.28 per bushel, oats were \$3.64 per bushel, malt barley was \$4.94 per bushel, feed barley was \$4.18 per bushel, and all barley was \$4.70, steers and heifers were \$95.90 per cwt, cows were \$53.80 per cwt, calves were \$120.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$53.60 per cwt, all milk was \$19.40 per cwt, and all eggs were \$1.06 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 25 points (18 percent) from June 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 157, increased 10 points (6.8 percent) from last month and increased 19 points (14 percent) from June 2007.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 2007	June 2007	May 2008	June 2008
Prices Received	136	137	151	162
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	161	161	186	189
Ratio 2/	84	85	81	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	May 2008	Apr 2008	May 2007	15-Jun-08	15-Jun-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.81	8.49	9.12	8.17	0.63	4.31	8.70	8.00
Durum Wheat	Bu	5.75	15.80	11.20	13.50	-4.60	5.45	9.12	12.10
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.97	9.69	11.30	10.70	1.61	6.33	9.31	10.10
All Wheat	Bu	4.95	9.26	10.20	8.87	0.94	5.25	9.00	8.28
All Barley	Bu	3.18	4.65	5.28	4.52	0.63	2.10	3.73	4.70
Feed Barley	Bu	2.82	4.55	4.07	4.99	-0.48	1.25	3.73	4.18
Malt Barley	Bu	3.31	4.72	6.05	4.38	1.33	2.74	na	4.94
Oats	Bu	2.49	3.74	3.44	3.63	-0.30	0.95	na	3.64
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	92.00	89.00	99.00	177.00	10.00	7.00	84.00	172.00
All Other Hay	Ton	87.00	84.00	102.00	134.00	18.00	15.00	99.00	130.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	91.00	88.00	99.00	166.00	11.00	8.00	86.00	161.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	98.80	99.50	98.80	95.90	-0.70	0.00	95.80	95.90
Cows	Cwt	53.90	50.90	54.30	53.90	3.40	0.40	52.50	53.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	84.90	88.30	83.70	91.10	-4.60	-1.20	75.90	91.60
Calves	Cwt	114.00	113.00	116.00	119.00	3.00	2.00	115.00	120.00
Sheep	Cwt	27.80	24.50	19.80	27.70	-4.70	-8.00	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	98.30	101.00	104.00	100.00	3.00	5.70	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	16.50	18.20	18.60	18.40	0.40	2.10	17.30	19.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

## U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand

U.S. 2008/09 wheat supplies are projected higher this month on higher carry in and production. Beginning stocks are raised 52 million bushels based on June 1 stocks. Winter wheat production is forecast up 47 million bushels mostly on higher soft red production. The first survey-based production forecast for spring wheat (including durum) is 596 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year, but 18 million bushels lower than last month's projection. Feed and residual use for 2008/09 is raised 30 million bushels with increased supplies, particularly for soft red winter wheat, and higher expected corn prices. Ending stocks are projected at 537 million bushels, up 50 million from last month. The first 2008/09 by-class wheat supply and demand projections indicate larger supplies of all classes of wheat except hard red spring. The 2008/09 marketing year average farm price is projected at \$6.75 to \$8.25 per bushel, unchanged from last month.

Global 2008/09 wheat production is projected at a record 664 million tons, up 1.3 million tons from last month and 53 million tons higher than the weather-reduced 2007/08 crop. This month's increase reflects higher production in Australia, EU-27, and the United States, which more than offsets a reduction for Iran. Production for Australia is raised 1.0 million tons based on increased area in the latest government estimates. EU-27 production is projected 1.7 million tons higher on increased yields for France, Bulgaria, and Romania, which more than offset reductions for Germany and Poland. Favorable weather continues to boost EU-27 crop prospects despite May and late June dryness in parts of Germany and Poland. Recent rains in these countries, however, have been beneficial and helped stabilize conditions for affected crops. Production for Iran is cut 2.0 million tons as extreme, prolonged drought in the major rain-fed growing areas has sharply reduced output.

Global 2008/09 wheat imports, exports, and consumption are all raised this month with increased supplies. World imports are raised on increases for Iran and South Korea, up 2.0 million tons and 0.5 million tons, respectively. World exports are raised with a 1.0-million-ton increase for EU-27 and increases for Kazakhstan and Ukraine, each up 0.5 million tons. World wheat feeding is projected 1.9 million tons higher on increases for Canada, South Korea, and the United States. World wheat ending stocks are projected 1.0 million tons higher with increases for the United States and Australia only partly offset by a number of smaller reductions elsewhere.

Global 2007/08 wheat imports and exports are also raised this month. The largest import increases are for North Africa countries and the United States. The largest export increases are for Canada and the EU-27. Global ending stocks for 2007/08 are raised mostly reflecting higher stocks in the United States.

## Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1995-2008

Wheat, Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1995-2008												
Year Begin- ning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Begin- ning Stocks	Pro- duction	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disap- pearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
-- Million Bushels --												
1995 .....	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 .....	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 .....	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 .....	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 .....	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 .....	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 .....	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 .....	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003 .....	491	2,345	63	2,899	912	80	203	1,194	1,158	2,353	546	3.40
2004 .....	546	2,158	71	2,775	910	78	182	1,169	1,066	2,235	540	3.40
2005 .....	540	2,105	81	2,726	915	78	160	1,152	1,003	2,155	571	3.42
2006 .....	571	1,812	122	2,505	938	81	121	1,140	909	2,049	456	4.26
2007 ..... 3/	456	2,067	108	2,631	950	88	20	1,058	1,267	2,325	306	6.48
2008 ..... 3/	306	2,461	100	2,866	960	84	285	1,329	1,000	2,329	537	6.75-8.25

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary.

SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 11, 2008--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

## COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Mink Production	Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production	Sheep Inventory
Wheat & Barley Varieties	Red Meat Production
Egg Production	
Cattle Inventory	

Peggy Stringer, Director  
John Hilton, Deputy Director  
Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant  
10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626  
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612  
[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/) nass-mt@nass.usda.gov